

TRIBUTE TO CHAD SCHIEBER

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Chad Schieber.

Chad was a dedicated police officer, an active member of the Midland, Michigan, community, and a loving husband and father. Chad was born in Midland, but he spent much of his early life in Traverse City, Michigan, where he grew up and attended the police academy. In 1994, Chad returned to Midland and joined the Midland Police Department.

As an officer, he consistently went above and beyond the call of duty. His accomplishments include being a mountain bike instructor within the department, helping organize the Midland Youth Law Enforcement Academy, serving as coordinator for the Midland County Crime Stoppers, implementing the department's child DNA identification program, and helping to establish the Midland Law Enforcement Memorial. For his efforts, Chad was honored with the 2006 Carl and Esther Gerstacker Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award by the Midland Police Department.

Chad was a devoted Christian and member of the Midland Christian Celebration Center. Chad served on the church's board, and he and his wife Sarah touched many lives through the marriage ministries they conducted.

Chad's biggest joy in life was his family. He leaves behind his wife, Sarah, of 12 years, his daughter Abigayle, and sons Noah and Micah.

Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Chad Schieber for his life of service and extend my sincerest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones.

HONORING SAM WASHINGTON

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to let my colleagues know that we recently lost one of our nation's most dedicated conservationists. Marvin "Sam" Washington embodied the American tradition of conservation. I want his family to know that Sam was an inspiration to us all and that he will be very sorely missed.

An avid hunter and angler, Sam served on the Board of Directors of Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) and was also a member of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the State Parks Advisory Committee. From 2003 to 2007, Sam served as Executive Director of the MUCC, becoming one of our strongest advocates for access to Michigan's natural resources and protection of Michigan's hunting and fishing heritage.

Sam was a passionate outdoorsman who channeled his love of wildlife into action. He understood that nature must be cherished, enjoyed and preserved for future generations—not exploited. At a time when many of our natural resources are at risk, Sam stood tall, fighting for action on global warming, mercury emissions, wetlands protection and responsible land use.

Sam was much more than a conservationist, however—he was an integral part of his community. He taught English and coached various sports in the Bloomfield Hills School District. He was also a minister, as well as a dedicated husband and father to his wife Peggy and two daughters, Jenny and Wendy.

Madam Speaker, I would ask that all my colleagues join me in paying tribute to a great American conservationist, my friend Sam Washington.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
MONSIGNOR FRANK SAMMONS**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Syracuse native Monsignor Frank Sammons, who passed away on July 7 at the age of 87.

Throughout his life Monsignor Sammons was dedicated not only to the priesthood and his faith, but also to the people and communities he served.

A graduate of St. Vincent de Paul High School, Sammons continued his education at Niagara University, St. Bernard's Seminary, and the Theological College of Washington, DC. He was ordained into the Catholic priesthood on May 15, 1947 and served as parochial vicar in his first assignment at St. John the Baptist Church in Syracuse, New York.

In 1968, Monsignor Sammons became the pastor of St. Patrick's Church on Tipperary Hill where he served until his retirement in 1995. Even in retirement, Monsignor Sammons was active in the church and the community. He served at St. Matthew's Parish in East Syracuse and as Diocesan Minister to retired priests. Sammons also belonged to the Bishop Ludden Planning Committee and served as the Chaplain for Bishop Grimes' athletics.

Monsignor Sammons was equally as passionate about sports and youth as he was about the priesthood. A former athlete himself, Sammons was inducted into the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame. He founded the City-County Youth Board and served on the National Conference of Catholic Youth. Sammons also served as director of the Catholic Youth Organization, CYO, and he founded the organization's popular youth basketball league. In addition, Monsignor Sammons served as director of Lourdes Camp in Skaneateles, New York. He also took on the role of athletic director for all three Syracuse Catholic High Schools: Christian Brothers Academy, Bishop Grimes, and Bishop Ludden.

Monsignor Sammons' commitment to the Catholic Church and the people—especially the youth—that he served is unquestionable. Monsignor Sammons was a fixture in our community, and he will be sorely missed.

AZERBAIJAN'S STATE
INDEPENDENCE DAY**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, one of our key democratic

allies—the Republic of Azerbaijan—is set to celebrate the 16th Anniversary of its re-independence on October 18. In the current global political climate, Azerbaijan is unique among democracies as the world's first Muslim democratic republic! A status I both commend and support.

Azerbaijan's first glimpse as a democratic republic came in 1918 shortly after the fall of the Russian Empire. Unfortunately, the Red Army invaded on April 28, 1920 and thereby preempting further democratization at that time.

Azerbaijan's second opportunity for freedom and self-determination came at a heavy price following the 1990 invasion of Baku by Soviet troops, resulting in the death of more than a hundred thirty civilians. Moscow rule grew weaker in Azerbaijan and by 1991 popular pressure led the country to declare its independence.

Given past Soviet rule and difficult geopolitical environment between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan's determination to look westward for its political and economic allies should be applauded.

Azerbaijan cooperates with the United States within international and regional institutions including UN, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and NATO's Partnership for Peace program. Azerbaijan also works together with the United States within the framework of the Organization for Democracy and Development—GUAM which is comprised of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The group was created as a political, economic and strategic alliance aimed at overcoming common risks and threats and strengthening the independence and sovereignty of its member states.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is a standout nation among the South Caucasus countries, with a population of 8 million people and an ambitious economic policy. During the last decade Azerbaijan has been implementing structural reforms and adopting numerous laws and legislative changes, paving the way toward further integration within the global economy. The nation has been moving toward a more diversified economy to achieve sustainable growth and to meet the social and development needs of its population. As reported by the International Monetary Fund, IMF, Azerbaijan's macroeconomic performance "has been impressive with strong growth, low inflation, and a stable exchange rate." Real GDP grew by an annual average of over 10 percent during the last six years and build up to 34.4 percent in the first eight months of 2006, driven by investments in the energy sector, followed by growth in the construction and transportation sectors, and agriculture.

Since signing the "Contract of the Century" in 1994 Azerbaijan has developed its energy sources within the Caspian region to diversify western energy supplies. On July 13, 2006 the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan main oil export pipeline was inaugurated. The Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum natural gas pipeline is expected to be completed this fall. Azerbaijan also actively promotes the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railroad project which has been recognized as an important part of East-West and North-South transport corridor.

Diversification of the economy and ensuring the development of non-oil sectors is a priority for the government. This policy includes implementation of projects and programs that create favorable conditions for development of